



LXL
300
L

CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

*
LIBRARY OF THE
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
LOS ANGELES

COLLECTION OF
Children's Books













Columbus.

SCENES
IN
A M E R I C A.



NEW YORK:
CLARK, AUSTIN & SMITH,
3 Park Row & 3 Ann-street



CONTENTS.

Discovery of the Continent,	12
The First Ship,	16
Landing of the Pilgrims,	20
The Shipyard,	24
A Fishing Boat,	28
West India Traders,	32
Siege of Louisbourg,	36
The Shipwreck,	40
The Shipwrecked Sailor,	44
The Lighthouse,	48
The Pilot,	52
The Farmer and his Son,	56
A Winter Scene,	60
The Steamboat,	64
The Birthplace of Macdonough,	68
A Forest Scene,	72
A New England Village,	76
The Falls of Niagara,	80
Fireside Scene,	84
Christmas Eve,	88
Sleigh Riding,	92

The Juvenile Soldiers,	.	.	.	.	.	96
An Evening Party,	.	.	.	.	.	100
A Manufacturing Town,	.	.	.	.	.	104
A Battle Scene,	.	.	.	.	.	108
The Greenhouse,	.	.	.	.	.	112
The Safe Return,	.	.	.	.	.	116
A Street in Philadelphia,	.	.	.	.	.	120
Franklin in his Study,	.	.	.	.	.	124
A Scene in the Rocky Mountains,	.	.	.	.	.	128
A Sailor on Shore,	.	.	.	.	.	132
The Watermill,	.	.	.	.	.	136
The Farmer's Boy,	.	.	.	.	.	140
The Sailor Boy,	.	.	.	.	.	144
Writing Composition,	.	.	.	.	.	148
The Boatswain,	.	.	.	.	.	152
A Southern Scene,	.	.	.	.	.	156
The Arctic Regions,	.	.	.	.	.	160
Skating,	.	.	.	.	.	164
The Backwoods Boy,	.	.	.	.	.	168
The Young Gardener,	.	.	.	.	.	172
The Poor Woman,	.	.	.	.	.	176
The Turnstile,	.	.	.	.	.	180
The Railroad,	.	.	.	.	.	184
Celebrating the Fourth of July,	.	.	.	.	.	188

INTRODUCTION.

IT is a pleasant recreation to the mind, to pass rapidly from one scene to another, and bestow a few moments' consideration on each one as we pass along. It is like seeing the pictures of a diorama, which transport us in imagination from city to city, and from country to country, and from one passage of history to another, by means of a quick succession of landscapes and views.

In this little book, I propose to give my young readers such a dioramic view of our western continent, passing rapidly along, and viewing the different objects of interest which may present themselves.

My selection of objects, perhaps, will be considered somewhat odd and capricious ; but I shall only take up those, about which I can make some remarks and observations, such as I think will interest and instruct the reader, and convey some good lesson.

In all that I write for young people, I

have in view their information and instruction as well as their amusement. Books which only amuse tend to dissipate the mind, unfit it for serious studies ; but those which relate to important events and real objects, have a very different tendency, as they serve to make young people aware of what has passed, and is passing in the world, and to excite a laudable curiosity and thirst for knowledge ; and knowledge, you know, the great Lord Bacon says, is power.

In this little book, I shall pass over in review, some of the remarkable and striking scenes in the history of the country ; and I shall then take a survey of some of the more remarkable features which present themselves in its present state. Some of those customs and peculiarities, which distinguish us from the old world, will be noticed, with occasional remarks. Some of the remarkable places and objects will be described. I shall also notice some scenes in domestic life, the in-door life of the people ; and in some instances, I shall not think it too trifling to take notice of the amusements and favourite sports of old and young.

In this way I hope to entertain my young readers, as well as to make them better acquainted with the real state of our own country.

In fact, every young American should consider himself bound by duty and patriotism, to make himself as well acquainted with his country as his circumstances and opportunities will permit. He should extend his inquiries not only to its past history, but to its present condition. This is a subject on which it is not very easy to acquire too much information ; since it is our own country in which most of us are destined to pass our whole lives. We cannot, therefore, be too well informed concerning it.

Other countries have their peculiar features, and their peculiar objects of interest. We can learn a good deal from books, respecting them ; and it is certainly useful to do so, because it serves to liberalize the mind, and enlarge our conceptions of the world and its inhabitants, and to make us take a great interest in the concerns of distant nations, as they come under our notice. Still this kind of knowledge is not so im-

INTRODUCTION.

mediately useful as that which relates to our own country. The more we know about our own noble country, the more we shall prize it, as the home of civil and religious freedom, the country where every man is taught by the laws and constitution, to respect the rights of his fellow-man ; the country where the great battles of freedom were fought and won, in order that an asylum might be afforded for the outraged and oppressed of all other countries ; the country which Smith, and the early pilgrims, and Calvert, and Oglethorpe, and Penn, colonized, and which Washington defended, and raised into a united and independent nation.

We ought to be thankful that it has pleased a beneficent Providence to permit us to be born in such a country. We ought to cherish its institutions, and observe its laws. We ought to reverence the memory of its great men, and imitate the example of its good men. We ought to delight in the name of Americans, and never to forget that we owe to our country the duty of honest patriots and good citizens. By re-

specting the claims, which our country has upon us, we not only advance its prosperity and honour, but we promote our own interest ; for the interest of the country is the interest of all its citizens.

DISCOVERY OF THE CONTINENT.

THE continent of North America was discovered by Sebastian Cabot, several years after Columbus first reached, and colonized some of the islands in the West Indies.

In 1497, John Cabot and his son Sebastian, from Bristol, arrived at Newfoundland, or more probably Labrador; but no intimation is afforded of his having sailed to any distance along the coast. In 1498, however, his son Sebastian, with two vessels, made a most extensive survey, beginning in the latitude of fifty-six degrees, and terminating, it is said, in that of the straits of Gibraltar, or about thirty-six degrees. This must have brought him to the mouth of the Chesapeake, or even of Albemarle sound. He soon after sought the service of the





Spanish monarch, and was created a member of the council of the Indies. In 1517, he is again found employed, though only as second to Sir Thomas Pert, in an expedition from England, by which the exploration of Hudson's bay was certainly effected, though not actively followed up. Returning to Spain, he was promoted to the rank of chief pilot of that kingdom, and sailing under its flag, made the important discovery of the Rio de la Plata. Lastly, at an advanced age, being again in England, he was nominated grand pilot, and governor of the company of Merchant Adventurers, in which capacity he drew up instructions for Sir Hugh Willoughby's north-eastern expedition. He appears to have ranked second to Columbus among the navigators of that age, superior in science, and rivaling him in enterprise, gallantry, and honourable feeling.

THE FIRST SHIP.

ONE of the most striking scenes in American history was the appearance of the first ship. We may, at this distant period of time, figure to ourselves the amazement with which the simple natives of this western continent beheld the first ship which approached their shores.

Columbus informs us that the natives of San Salvador, the island at which he first arrived, considered the Spaniards to be superior beings,—angels, descended from the heavens; and that they regarded the ships as living creatures, and the sails as their wings. Their astonishment was still further increased, when they heard the roar of the cannons, and saw the flames and smoke issuing from them at the will of their new visitors.

This impression of the superior nature



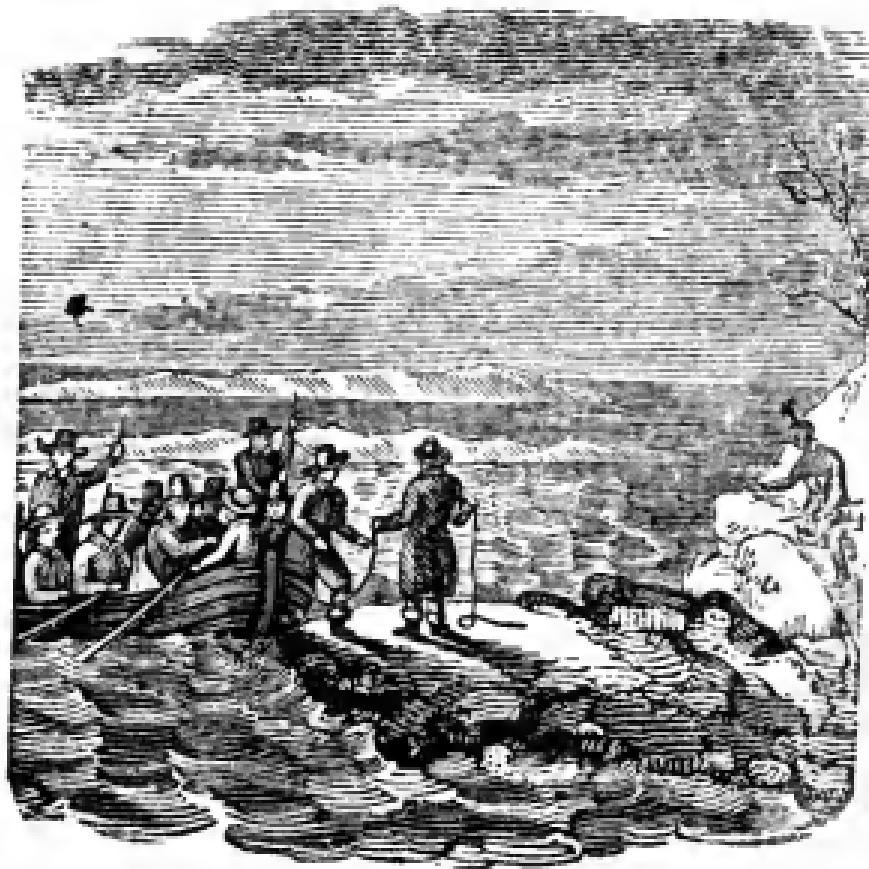
The First Ship.



of the Spaniards was made the means of imposing upon the simple minds of the natives, and led to their easy subjugation. It was not long, however, before the terrible passions and vices of the Europeans served to convince the Indians that these were mere men ; and many years had not elapsed before the natives learned the use of firearms, and turned them with destructive force against their invaders. The wrongs which they had suffered from the whites stimulated them to a terrible revenge ; and they laid desolate many thriving towns and villages in every part of the continent. But they were destined to yield at last ; and now nearly all the best parts of the western world are in possession of the whites.

LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS.

New England was settled by a company of Puritans, who are called the Pilgrim Fathers. They had been settled in Holland, whither they fled from persecution on account of religion in their own country. England; but they afterwards returned, and obtained two vessels to take them to America. One of these vessels proved unseaworthy, and was left behind; and they finally set sail in one vessel, on the 6th of September, 1620, being in all one hundred and two persons. They had a tempestuous voyage, and though their destination was the mouth of the Hudson, they arrived on the 9th of November, in view of a great promontory, which proved to be Cape Cod. The captain, it has been alleged, had received a bribe from the Dutch to avoid a place where they projected a settlement.



Landing of the Pilgrims.

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

Of this, however, the adventurers being ignorant, were comforted by the view of a goodly land wooded to the water's edge. They sailed on toward their destination, but being driven back by contrary winds, determined to go ashore.

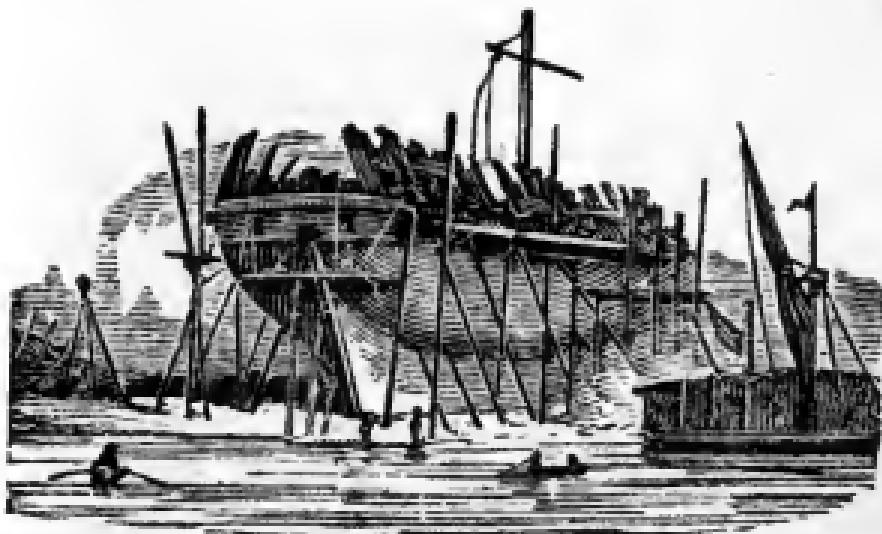
They landed on the 11th, and a small party proceeded in a shallop in search of a more commodious place. The boat, however, was in such disrepair that it could not sail till the end of two or three weeks: sixteen of them, therefore, resolved to make an excursion into the interior; but they soon regained their boat and sailed round to the ship.

They finally fixed upon a spot for a settlement, to which, on the 19th, the vessel was brought round; and they named it New Plymouth, to commemorate hospitalities received at home.

THE SHIP YARD.

ONE of the earliest pursuits of the colonists of New England was the building of ships. The forests of the newly discovered country abounded with excellent timber, well suited to the purposes of the ship carpenter. Iron ore was found in equal abundance, and the colonists were not long in converting it into good iron, fitted for use, in the building of ships. Their carpenters' tools were obtained from England, in exchange for furs and timber, which ships of their own construction were employed to carry to the mother country.

The shores of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Maine were speedily enlivened by the sound of the ship carpenters' axe and adze; and fine ships, schooners, brigs, and sloops were soon launched, in which the hardy sons



A Shipyard.



of the New England soil began to spread their commerce to all parts of the world.

They had fishing vessels on the coast of Newfoundland, trading vessels in the West Indies, the East Indies, and China, and in every part of Europe, and whaling vessels in the Arctic and Pacific oceans. A hundred years had not elapsed after the landing of the Pilgrims, before New England sails whitened every ocean in the world.

A FISHING BOAT.

We have spoken of the fondness of the New England people for ship building and commerce. Another of their favourite pursuits is fishing. The whole coast of the United States abounds in excellent fish of various kinds. The New England coast is bordered by shoals, on which a great variety of fish may be taken at almost any season of the year when the weather will permit ; but the best season for fishing is, of course, the summer ; when the fish are most abundant, and the weather warm and delightful.

But the principal fisheries are on the banks of Newfoundland : where codfish are taken in unparalleled abundance. This excellent fishing ground was visited very early by Europeans. The fishermen of Normandy and Brittany commenced making fishing voyages there soon after



A Fishing Boat.



the discovery of the continent by Cabot · the English speedily began to rival them, and to dispute with France the possession of all the islands and coasts bordering on these famous banks of Newfoundland, which were a source of great profit.

The New England people, as colonists of Great Britain, always enjoyed the privilege of fishing on the banks, except at periods when war with France rendered their vessels liable to capture.

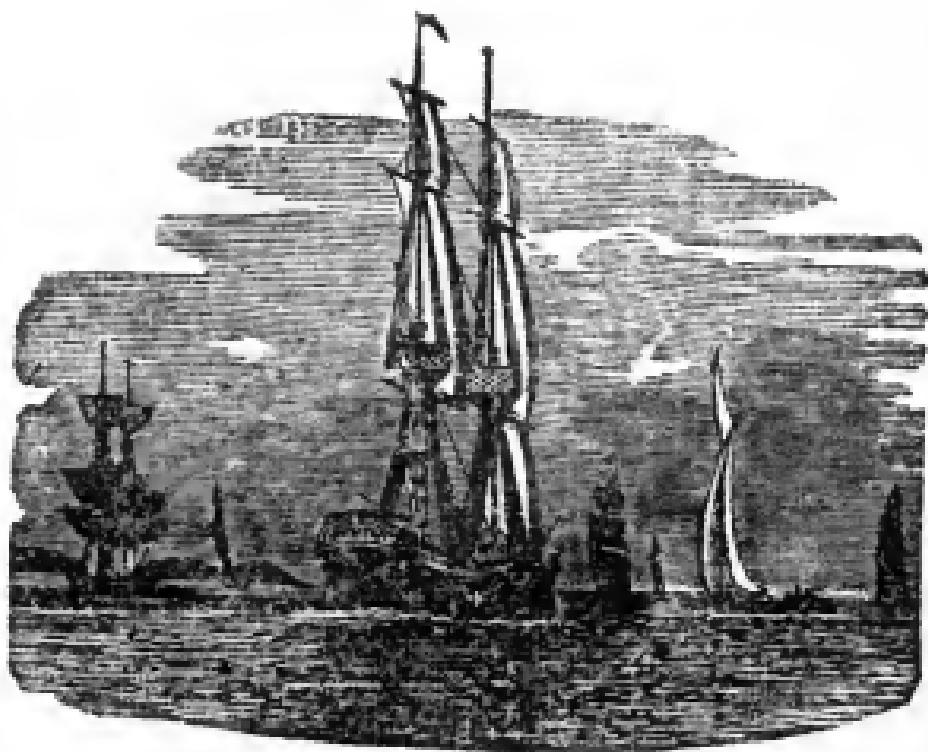
The government encouraged the fisheries by bounties ; and in return, when war came, the hardy fishermen were always foremost in manning the navy.

WEST INDIA TRADERS.

THE engraving gives a view of a number of vessels, West India traders, some entering and some leaving one of the New England sea-ports. This is a scene which is frequently presented to view, and it has been often and often repeated ever since the colonies were first planted in New England.

The trade with the West Indies has been extremely profitable to those who were engaged in it. The vessels were laden in the New England ports with timber, lumber for building, staves and heading for making hogsheads for sugar, and molasses, and rum ; with fish, and sometimes with horses.

These articles were exchanged for the products of the West India Islands ; such as molasses, sugar, rum, coffee, and tropical fruits. The article of molasses



West India Trader.



was eagerly sought by the New England traders ; and hence arose the common saying that the Yankees are very fond of molasses. The truth is that they preferred this article, because, by distilling spirits from it, and exporting the spirits, they made a double trade and a double profit. The Yankees are a shrewd trading people, and they knew the commercial value of molasses.

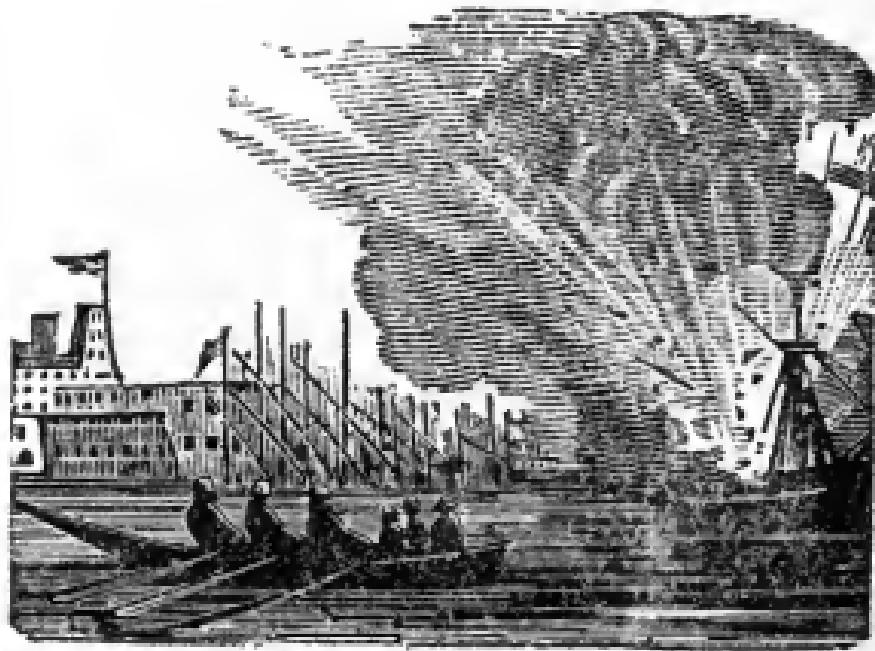
Of late years the progress of the cause of temperance has occasioned the distilling of spirit to be abandoned ; and the consequent profit to be sacrificed ; for the Yankees are a conscientious, as well as a shrewd people.

SIEGE OF LOUISBOURG.

I HAVE told you how valuable the fisheries of Newfoundland were considered by the early colonists of New England. They were a great source of profit, and many thousand families derived their chief support from them. Of course any interruption of the fisheries was a great misfortune to the colonists.

The French had built a fortress at Louisbourg, on Cape Breton, which was an important rendezvous in war, and many privateers were fitted out there for the destruction of commerce and the fisheries. From its close proximity to Nova Scotia, it endangered that province, and it became an object of New England policy to attempt its reduction.

New England traders often visited the city, and one of them, Mr. Vaughan, of New Hampshire, conceived that it might



Siege of Louisbourg.



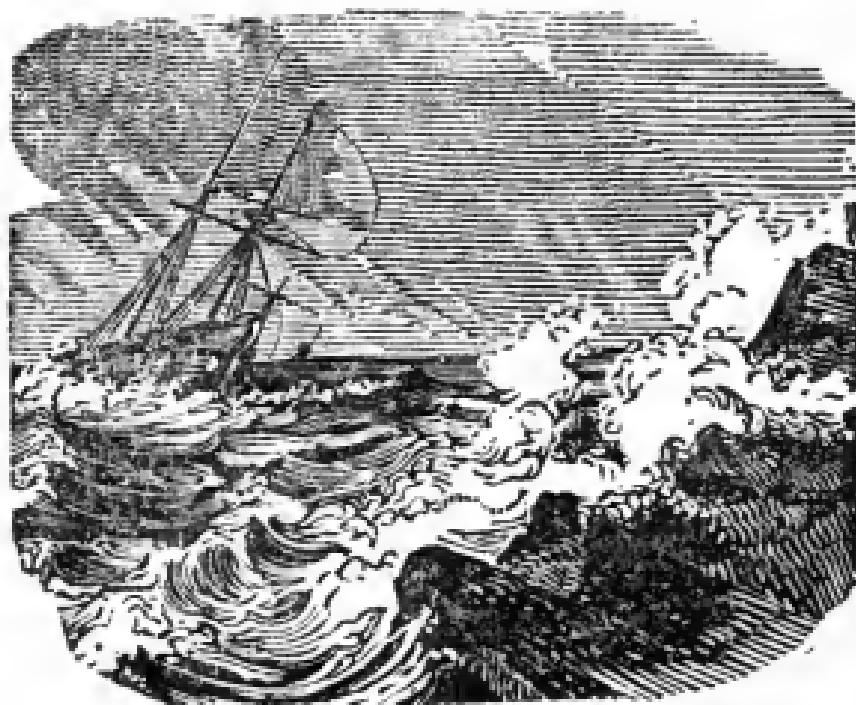
be taken. In an interview with Governor Shirley, he succeeded in inspiring him with his own ardour and enthusiasm.

In Massachusetts, forces were promptly raised. The command of the whole expedition was given to William Pepperell, who sailed on the 24th of March, from Nantucket, with several transports, under convoy of the Shirley snow. He arrived at Canseau, on the 4th of April, where he was joined by the troops of New Hampshire and Connecticut, swelling the number of his army to four thousand men. With this force the city was besieged by sea and land, and soon captured. A French ship was captured in the port, and the French commandant surrendered the fortress, and relieved the colonists of the great enemy of the fisheries.

THE SHIPWRECK.

AMONG the pleasant scenes of America, those which present themselves on the lakes and on the coasts, in her beautiful ships, sailing in pleasant weather, and carrying the rich products of commerce, are among the most beautiful. But sea life has its contrasts : the coast of the United states is in many places environed by shoals, rocks, and quick-sands, which are extremely perilous to the navigator ; rendering an approach to the coast, in stormy weather, dangerous, and occasioning the frequent recurrence of that terrible scene, the shipwreck.

The greatest danger to a ship, you know, is when a strong wind is blowing it towards a rocky shore, as you see in the engraving. Then it is that all the skill of the mariner is put in force to



The Shipwreck.



avert destruction ; for if the vessel strikes a rock, the violence of the waves is such, that it is more than probable she will instantly go to pieces ; and in that case, few, if any, can escape drowning.

You see by the newspapers how frequent these shipwrecks are, especially in the winter season. The amount of lives lost, and the suffering endured, is very great, even in a single winter. We should not forget, however, that the number of ships lost, bears but a very small proportion to those who perform their voyages in safety.

THE SHIPWRECKED SAILOR.

HERE we see another distressing scene. It is in consequence of the shipwreck. This is the only survivor. Being a strong swimmer, he was able, when the ship struck, to reach the shore and clamber up among the rocks. He is much exhausted by his efforts in swimming. He leans his head sadly upon his hand, and looks upon the ocean which has swallowed up his messmates, and left him alone to tell the tale of sorrow.

Poor sailor ! He has lost all. His chest of clothes, his bed and bedding, all the nice things which his wife had provided for his comfort during the voyage are gone. To crown the whole, he has lost all his arrears of wages ; for this is the cruel custom. The poor sailor loses his wages when his ship is wrecked, al-



The Shipwrecked Sailor.



"~~though~~ it may be that she has been lost by no fault of his.

Our shipwrecked sailor, when he has recovered his strength a little, will search the shore, in hopes of discovering some property which may have floated on shore from the wreck, although it is probable that others will anticipate him even in this ; for, to the disgrace of our country, there are parts of the American coast infested with wreckers, who plunder the property from shipwrecked vessels.

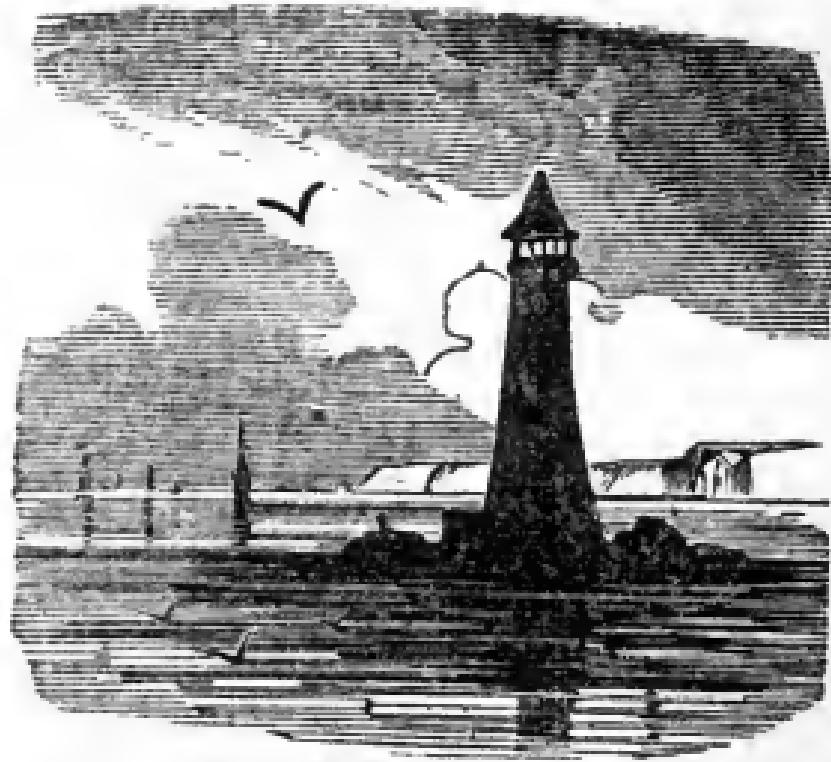
The poor sailor will then walk to the nearest town, and report the disaster which has happened. He will then endeavour to find a ship bound to the port from whence he came, and obtain the privilege of working his passage home.

With all this desolation, the poor sailor is still thankful to Divine Providence, for preserving his life alone, when so many others were lost

THE LIGHTHOUSE.

HERE is another scene which presents itself on all parts of the American coast. This is the lighthouse. It is built on the shore, or on an island or rock upon the coast, on some point where a ship would be endangered by sailing in the night, without some landmark to guide her, of which the exact situation is known to the captain.

The lighthouse is built of wood or stone, with a large lantern at the top, which is lighted up every night. Sometimes the coast of a commercial country has dangerous shoals in such situations, that it becomes necessary to build a lighthouse far out in the ocean, on a foundation of rocks which may be under water. Such is the Eddystone lighthouse, on the British coast. Two lighthouses were successively built and destroyed by the



The Lighthouse.



violence of the waves; but a third was built so strong, that it defies the most violent tempests.

The man who tends the lighthouse has to live in it, when it is at a distance from the shore. He must find it rather dull work. It is solitary imprisonment, with a fine chance of getting drowned.

THE PILOT.

To prevent shipwrecks, arising from the ignorance of the captains respecting the coast, every port has its pilot, whose business it is to bring ships safely into the harbour. He has to serve a regular apprenticeship at the business, in the port where he is pilot, and he has to make himself perfectly familiar with all the coast round the harbour, and know where the channel is, and where every rock, shoal, or sandbank is, which threatens the safety of the ship.

He is a very important person, and frequently in a large port, the branch pilot, that is, the head pilot, has a number of others under his command, besides his apprentices. In a large port, like New York or Boston, twenty or thirty ships may arrive the same day, and each must have its pilot.



The Pilot.



For his services he receives a very liberal compensation; but then you must remember that the responsibility is great, and he must render the service in all kinds of weather, by night as well as by day.

In the preceding engraving, the pilot stands on the quarter-deck with a pipe in his hand, observing the course of the vessel. At his left is a little sort of house, called the binocle or binnacle, in which is the compass; and behind it is the man at the helm, steering with a wheel according o the directions of the pilot.

THE FARMER AND HIS SON.

A FARMER is here showing his son the oak, which is considered the king of trees. He is teaching him some of the uses of this magnificent tree. The little boy knows very well one of the virtues of the oak, namely, that it produces very good acorns. He has eaten roasted ones, and he knows the situation of every white oak tree on the farm. The acorns of the white oak are delicious—quite as good as a filbert; but those of the red oak, though much larger, are bitter, fit only for the pigs, who are very fond of them.

But the oak has other uses. It serves for the material of farming utensils, carts, ploughs, and wagons. It is used to make handles for axes, rakes, and pitchforks. It is very useful to the farmer.

It furnishes also the best kind of ship-



The Farmer and his Son



timber. The kind called live oak is so necessary for certain parts of a ship, that our government has purchased large tracts of land in Florida, where it grows, solely for the benefit of the navy. But the time would fail me to enumerate a hundredth part of the uses of the oak. It is, I suppose, the most useful, as well as the grandest of our forest trees.

A WINTER SCENE.

IN the northern and middle states of the Union the winter season exhibits many scenes of amusement. The people appear to enjoy this dreary season with even a livelier zest than the opening promise of spring, the bright serenity of summer, or the fruitful joys of autumn.

Among winter amusements, those upon the ice are entered into with the greatest alacrity. Men and boys are equally delighted with the pleasure of skating. This pleasing and graceful exercise is eagerly sought by persons of all ages ; and as we see in the opposite engraving, the ladies sometimes endeavour to enjoy a share of the pleasures of winter, by availing themselves of the skater's skill, to enjoy a delightful ride upon the ice.

This gentleman has provided himself

A Winter Scene.





with a light sleigh without arms ; and while he enjoys the pleasure of skating, he contrives to afford his wife, the partner of all his joys, the pleasure of a sleighride upon the ice. It is a pleasing scene, and should teach us the moral lesson, that no pleasure is complete, which we enjoy without the participation of our friends.

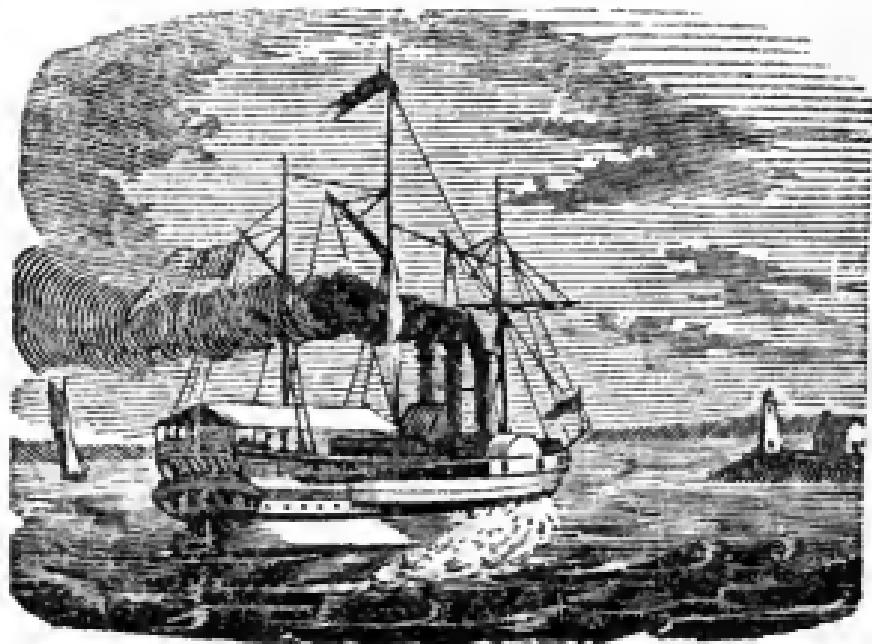
THE STEAMBOAT

THERE is nothing of which America has more reason to be proud, than her steamboats. This admirable invention, first conceived by an American, Fitch, and first brought into useful operation by an American, Fulton, is the peculiar beast of our country.

Steamboats are now used upon all our lakes and rivers, and many are employed on the ocean in transporting passengers and goods from sea-port to sea-port on our widely extended coast.

Formerly, stage coaches, wagons, and sailing vessels were the only means employed for the transportation of goods and passengers from one part of our extensive country to another; but steam-boats and railroads are now the principal means of transportation.

The advantage gained by this rapid



The Steamboat.



and certain means of conveyance, is not confined to the mere saving of time ; it also occasions a very great saving of money. One can travel now at a tenth part of the expense which was formerly incurred. While we are enjoying this great benefit, we should not forget the debt of gratitude which is due to the first man who ever rendered the application of steam efficient as a means of transportation—Robert Fulton.

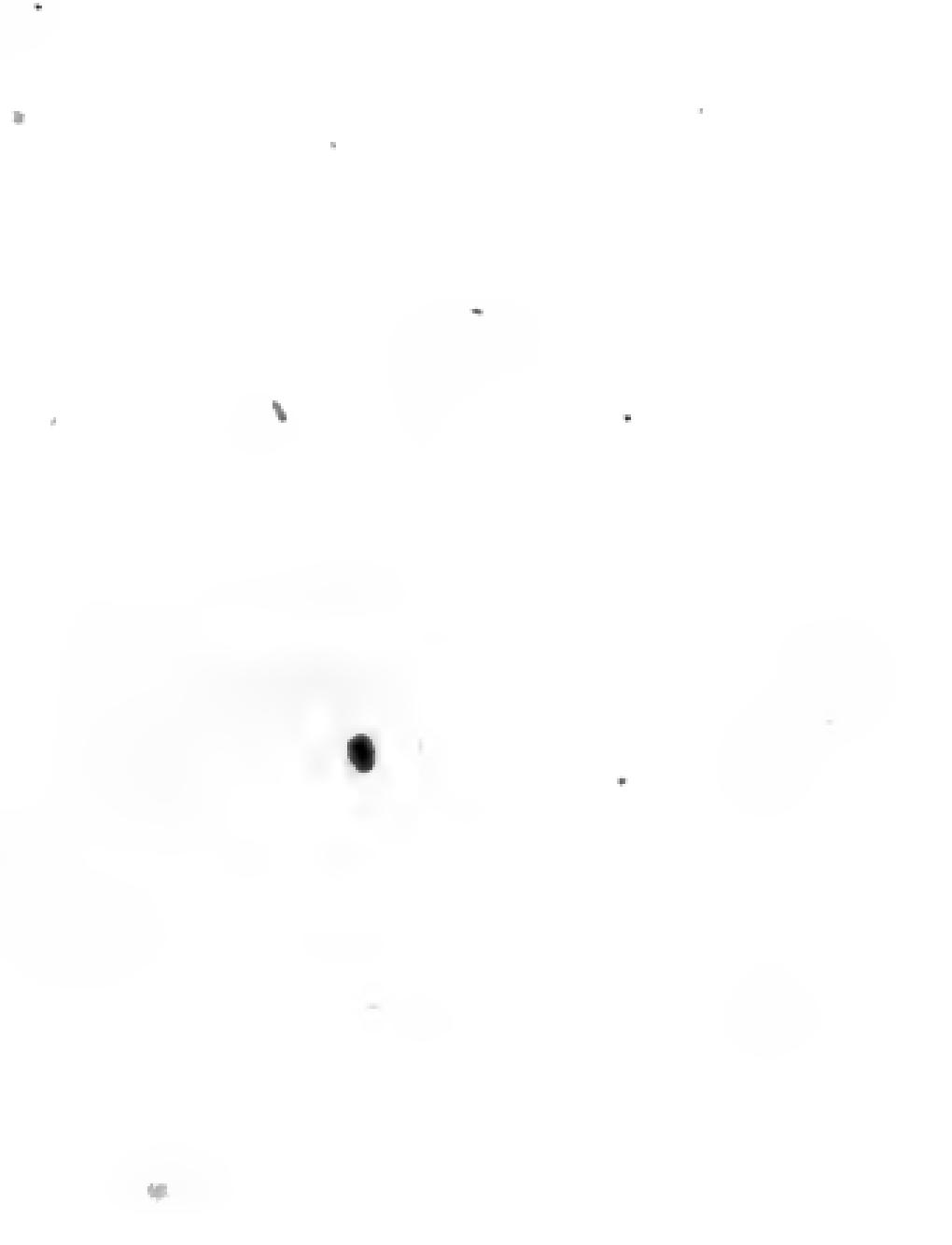
THE BIRTHPLACE OF MACDONOUGH.

This picture presents a scene which has peculiar interest for every patriotic American. In this little cottage, on the shore of Lake Champlain, was born one of the bravest of our naval heroes, Thomas Macdonough.

During the last war with Great Britain, he was placed in command of the American fleet on Lake Champlain ; and when General Prevost, with a great army of fifteen thousand men, invaded New York, and was supported by a strong naval force on the lake, commanded by Commodore Downie, a naval battle took place on Lake Champlain, in which our brave Macdonough captured the whole British fleet, and struck such a panic into the British general and his army, that they beat a hasty retreat, and were



Birthplace of Macdonough.



very glad to escape from the American soil.

This great victory made the fortune of Macdonough, who immediately acquired by it a competent fortune, and was put in possession of his birthplace, and many broad acres of the surrounding land.

A FOREST SCENE.

HERE is a scene such as often occurs in the deep forests of America. There the wild beasts roam in all their native freedom ; and the carnivorous and fierce animals prey upon those who are destitute of the means of defence. In the picture we see a large animal of the deer kind, called the moose deer, attacked by a roving band of wolves. The deer is an animal as large as a horse, with splendid branching horns. He lives on vegetable food like other animals of the deer kind, has hoofs instead of claws, and his teeth are more like those of an ox than those of a lion. Consequently, when attacked by wolves, he is sure to fall a sacrifice to their cruelty. One of them, you see, has leaped upon his back, and another is just about to seize him by the throat. In vain the poor moose runs



Moose attacked by Wolves.



with his utmost speed. He carries one of his enemies with him, and the others are close upon his heels. His fate is certain. They will soon overcome him, cast him bleeding upon the ground, and satiate their hunger upon his flesh. Poor moose !

A NEW ENGLAND VILLAGE.

IN no part of our country do we see more smiling and beautiful scenes of rural life, than in New England. The country towns are every where remarkable for the appearance of industry, neatness, and economy, which they present. The smiling farmhouses and orchards, the rich fields of corn and wheat, the waving meadow lands and pastures, delight the eye of the traveller.

Every village has its church, or, as it is generally called in that part of the country, its meeting-house. Most villages have several; and all are provided with many of those useful institutions which are the pride and boast of New England—common schools.

Here education is so generally diffused, that it is very rare to meet a person who does not know how to read and write



A New England Village.

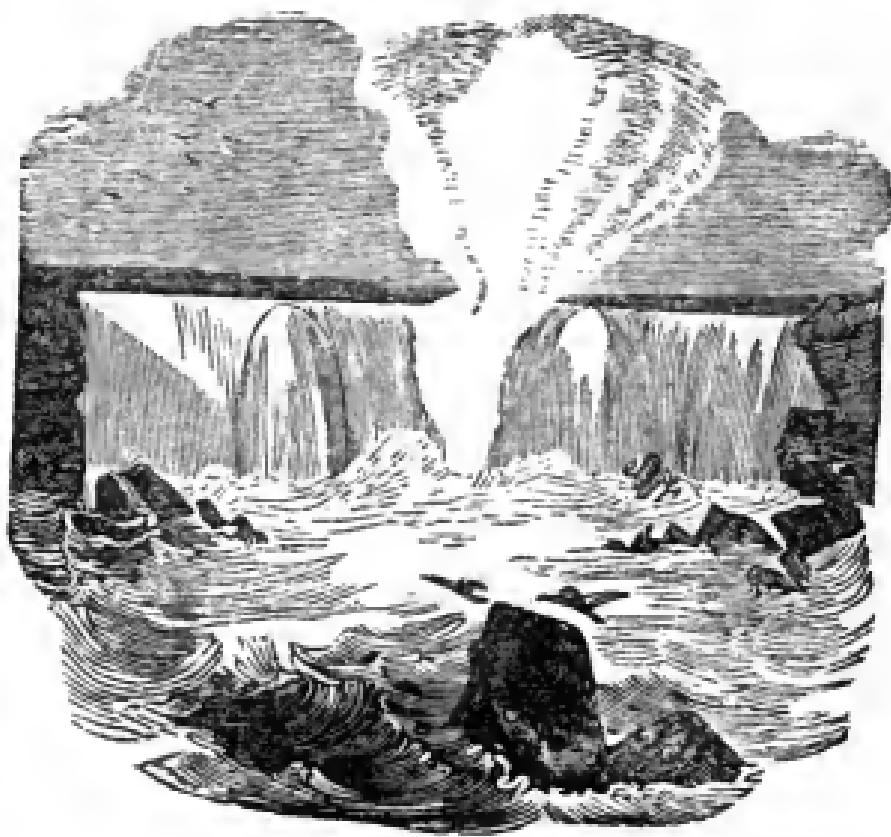


The consequence of this general diffusion of education, and of the accompanying habits of industry, is a great degree of mental activity among the people, which leads to innumerable inventions and discoveries in the useful arts of life. Hence it is that we are constantly hearing of new Yankee inventions.

THE FALLS OF NIAGARA.

This is universally admitted to be the most sublime scene in all America. Travellers from all parts of the United States, as well as from Europe, are constantly resorting to the Falls of Niagara, in order to behold the grandest spectacle of the kind which the world affords.

Here the waters, flowing from the great chain of lakes which separates Canada from the United States, are precipitated from a height of over one hundred and fifty feet into the yawning gulf of waters below. The noise is perfectly stunning, and may be heard for many miles; the foam and spray rises so high, that when the sun shines, rainbows are formed upon it; and the whole scene is so sublime and impressive as to



The Falls of Niagara.



produce profound emotion on the most insensible beholder.

The Falls are celebrated also in history. Near them was fought the celebrated battle of Niagara, where the British and American armies, for the whole of a dreadful night, added the roar of artillery and the crash of musketry to the everlasting sound of the waters. Over the falls, too, was the ill-fated vessel the Caroline precipitated, after being seized on the American side by the British during the recent rebellion in Canada.

If it is ever in your power to do so, pray do not fail to pay a visit to the falls of Niagara.

FIRESIDE SCENE.

THIS scene represents a number of boys enjoying themselves on Christmas eve. One of them has received from his parents a book full of droll stories, which he is reading aloud to the others ; and they are in high glee, enjoying the fun with all their might.

Christmas is the grand festival of the year in Philadelphia and the southern states. It is celebrated with the greatest enjoyment by the young people. The churches are opened for a morning service, and the afternoon and evening are given up to lively enjoyment ; but Christmas eve, i. e., the evening before Christmas, is devoted by the parents to the purchasing of presents for their children.

In New England the great annual festival is Thanksgiving day. The governor



A Fireside Scene.



of each of the New England states appoints a day of public Thanksgiving to God for his continued mercies, every year. It is generally late in November, or early in December. It is religiously celebrated, by a morning service, in the churches and meeting-houses ; and the afternoon and evening are devoted to visiting, feasting, music, and dancing.

In New York the first day of the new year is the most remarkable annual festival. It corresponds to Christmas in the middle states, in one respect ; that is, the giving of presents to one's children and friends. These annual festivals are productive of many good effects. They keep up kindly feelings and relieve, agreeably, the monotony of every day life.

CHRISTMAS EVE.

HERE is a scene on Christmas eve. This nurse has some children, who have been intrusted to her care, and furnished with some money, to spend in toys for their brothers and sisters as Christmas presents. They are just approaching the toy booth, to lay out their money.

There is one very curious thing about this matter of Christmas presents, which is pretty well understood in some parts of the country, but perhaps not so well in others; and therefore we will say a few words on the subject. It is the hand which Kriss Kingle has in the business. Kriss Kingle is another name for Santa Claus, or Saint Nicholas, who is supposed to have the children under his peculiar care.

Children on Christmas eve suspend an empty stocking the largest they can



Christmas Eve



find, in the chimney corner. Kriss Kingle is supposed to come in the night and put toys, books, and sugarplums in the stockings suspended by good children, and rods in those which belong to bad children.

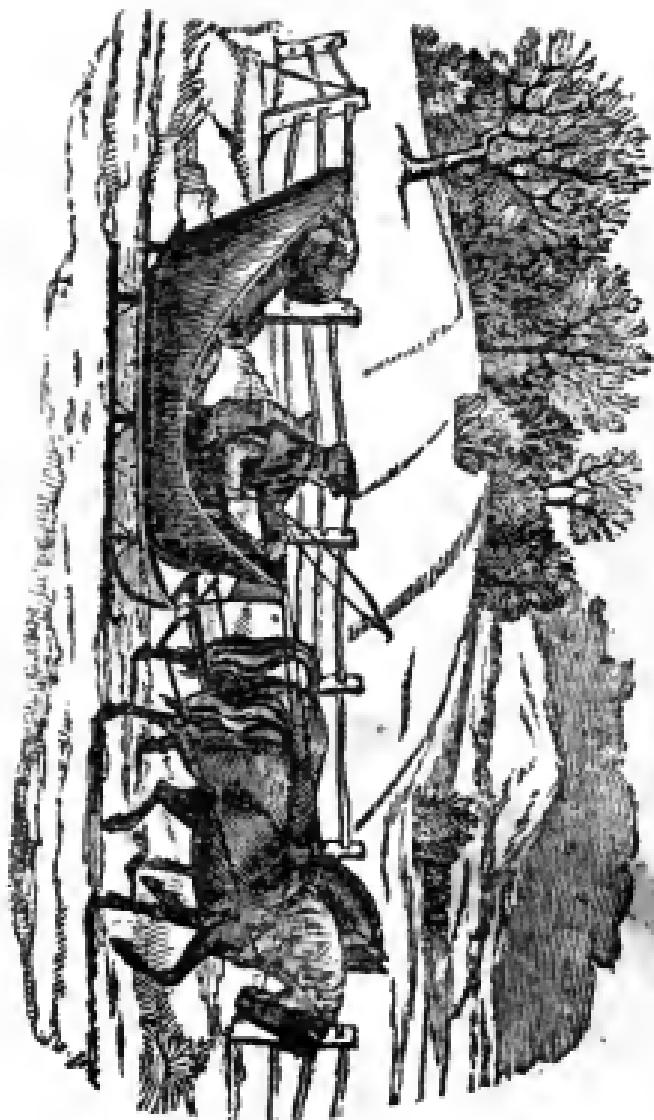
This is a very ingeniously devised legend, which serves to keep children in order. "If you don't behave well, I shall tell Kriss Kingle of your bad conduct, and he will put a rod in your stocking." Very little children really seem to believe there is something in it; and the parents see that the stockings on Christmas morning are well taken care of, according to the respective merits of the children.

SLEIGH RIDING.

SLEIGH riding is the greatest of all the winter amusements of the northern states. The snow is so abundant there, and remains on the ground so long, that the sleighs are running for nearly the whole winter. The enjoyment arises from the rapid motion, pleasant company, the bracing effects of the winter air, and the lively parties of dancing, visiting, &c., in which the sleigh ride generally terminates.

The provisions for the comfort of the riders are ample. Furs, buffalo robes, furred moccasins, &c., are provided in abundance, so as to defy the frosty atmosphere; and the riders are whirled over the ground by fleet horses, at a prodigious rate.

The omnibus sleighs in Boston are quite a curiosity to a southerner. Some



Sleigh Riding



of them are drawn by six or eight horses, and carry forty passengers. The seats are covered with furs, the horses are first rate, the drivers exceedingly skilful and attentive; and a ride in one of these vehicles is really a treat—quite a pleasure-party.

Boston, being situated on a peninsula, and surrounded by a circle of smaller towns, in which thousands of persons have their dwellings, who transact their business in the city, it follows that a great many large and fine omnibuses become necessary for the public accommodation. Hence it is that their omnibus sleighs are so large, and well fitted up.

THE JUVENILE SOLDIERS.

HERE is a scene of juvenile amusement. Playing soldiers is one of the favourite pastimes of our American boys. It has been so ever since the opening of our revolutionary war, when the Boston boys waited upon General Gage, the British commander, stationed in that city, and demanded a redress of grievances respecting their training-ground, which had been seized and occupied by his soldiers.

Sometimes the boys of our country form themselves into regular companies, dressed in uniform, and use real cannon of small calibre, in their field exercises. It is said by the biographers of General Washington, that even when he was a boy, it was an amusement of himself and his playmates to form themselves into two companies; and as Virginia,



The Juvenile Soldiers.

7

8



9

10

11

12

13

his native state, was then a colony of Great Britain, at war with France, the two parties named themselves English and French, and fought mimic battles. The account is, that Washington always commanded the English party.

Our boys at present amuse themselves with imitating the war with Mexico, and the officers take the names of the American and Mexican generals, and fight over again the battles of Palo Alto and Reseca de la Palma, and the siege of Monterey. It would be well if this military spirit evaporated in boyhood. War is a cruel and barbarous thing, which ought to be abolished; and in a future and better age of the world, it will be abolished.

AN EVENING PARTY

HERE is a parlour scene. It is an evening party. The room is lighted with chandeliers. The ladies and gentlemen are in full dress. Conversation is lively ; and the whole scene is one of refined and elegant enjoyment.

Many such scenes occur, almost every evening, in the numerous cities and towns of our widely extended country. Nor are they confined to a small class of the people. Almost every class has its social enjoyments on a scale of elegance and expense, unknown to the same classes in other countries. Here the means of gaining subsistence, and even of acquiring wealth are abundant. Industry and economy enable thousands upon thousands of our citizens to acquire handsome fortunes ; so that they may



An Evening Party.



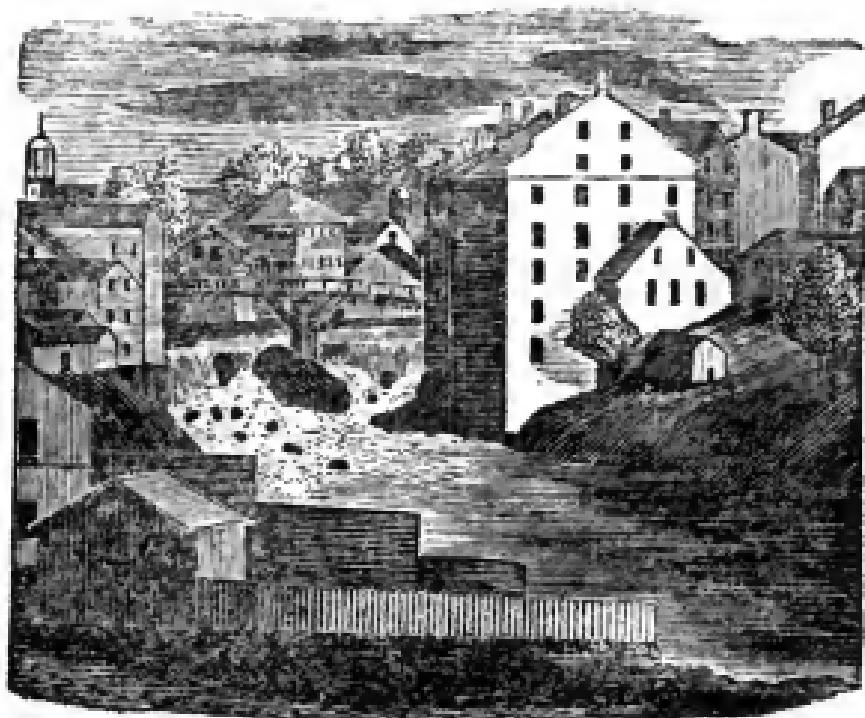
enjoy the pleasures of social life in an elegant manner.

But young people should remember that the acquisition and the preservation of property depend, for the most part, upon industry and economy. It is a good thing to acquire industrious and frugal habits in our young days. Then we may hope, although born poor, to become rich enough to enjoy all the lawful pleasures of life.

A MANUFACTURING TOWN.

HERE is a view of Pawtucket, a great manufacturing place, in the little state of Rhode Island. The buildings which you see, erected on each side of the river, are nearly all factories of cotton and woollen cloths. Here the cotton of the south, and the wool of the north are received, and wrought into all sorts of fabrics. Broadcloths, cassimeres, sheeting, calicoes, and various other descriptions of goods are made in these factories, in immense quantities. Some of them, indeed the greater part, are sold in our country. Others are exported to foreign countries.

Some thousands of workmen and women are employed in these factories, tending the carding machines and spinning jennies; and thus many families are supported.



A Manufacturing Town.

5.



6.



7.

8.

9.

10.

11.

12.

Such manufacturing towns are numerous in the northern and middle states, and a few are found, on a smaller scale, in the south.

The manufacturing population in our country, far from being the wretched and ill fed community which they are in England, are in fact among the most thriving and prosperous in the whole land. They are well educated and intelligent, and receive from their employers a handsome compensation for their labour.

A BATTLE SCENE.

THIS is a scene such as often occurred in the United States, during the famous war of the Revolution. It took place at the siege of Yorktown. Yorktown is situated in Virginia. Lord Cornwallis, after retreating from the Carolinas, occupied this place, and fortified it. General Washington, having threatened New York with a siege, and deceived General Clinton, the British commander there, thus prevented his sending troops to the aid of Cornwallis, against whom he suddenly marched with his own army, and that of the French, under Rochambeau.

The siege of Yorktown was commenced in regular form by the allied army in October, 1781. Two redoubts held by the British, gave the Americans and French so much annoyance, that it was



▲ Battle Scene.



decided to take them by storm ; and accordingly two detachments were ordered for this duty ; an American one commanded by Lafayette, and a French one commanded by the Baron de Viominel ; and both redoubts were speedily carried at the point of the bayonet.

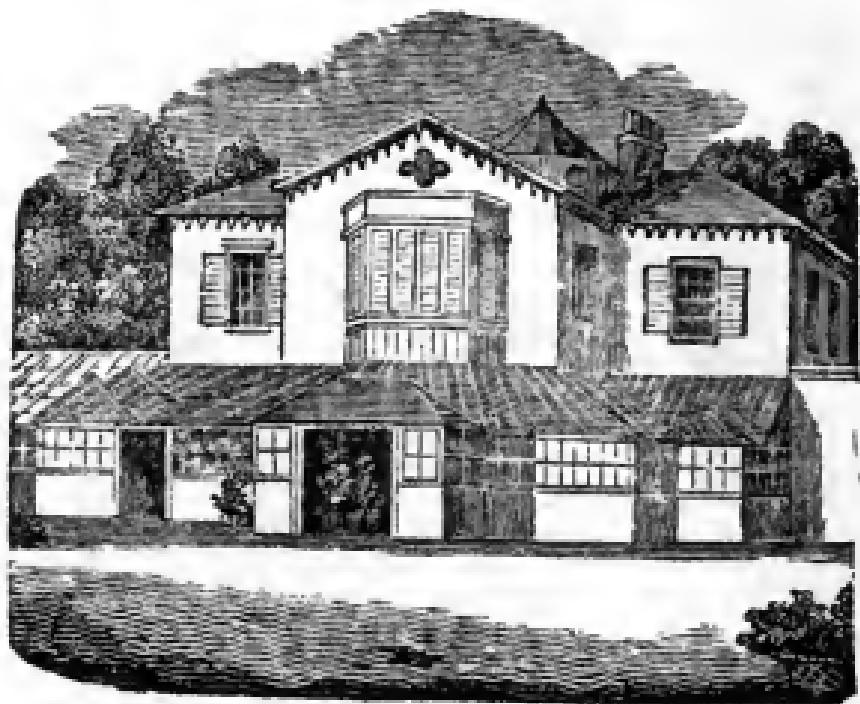
The engraving represents Lafayette leading on his Americans to the attack. Soon after this success, Cornwallis surrendered, and the main operations of the war were thus terminated. The loss of so fine an army soon brought the British to acknowledge the independence of the United States.

THE GREENHOUSE.

IN many parts of the United States there are beautiful botanical gardens and greenhouses, which are open to the public, besides the immense number of gardens, greenhouses, and conservatories belonging to private gentlemen, and maintained at their own expense.

A greenhouse, you know, is built with a great number of glass windows in the south side, and in the roof, which slopes towards the south, so as to receive the full benefit of the warmth and brightness of the sun. Besides this, it has a furnace and hot air pipes, leading to all parts of the building, so that the plants in it enjoy the warmth of summer during the winter months.

By this contrivance, the florist is able, not only to have the summer flowers of our own country blooming in midwinter,



The Greenhouse.



but to raise the most delicate exotic plants, such as belong to the tropical regions, and cannot bear exposure to the winter of our climate.

Oranges, lemons, and pineapples are raised in greenhouses; and our markets are supplied with early salads, radishes, green peas, and grapes, produced in the same manner. Thus the greenhouse is not a mere luxury for the rich, but gardeners who live by the products of their gardens, find it to their advantage to keep a greenhouse for supplying the markets with early vegetables at a high price.

THE SAFE RETURN.

HERE is a fine ship entering the harbour after a prosperous voyage. Men are standing on the sides of the small dock which she is entering, holding on to the ropes by which she is to be fastened. As soon as this is done, the captain will take his papers up to the custom-house, and go through the process which is called entering his ship. He has to render to the custom-house officers a complete invoice of all his cargo; and it is the duty of these custom-house officers to see that the owners of these goods pay the duties which are levied on them for the support of the government of the United States. The list of duties which Congress lays on imported merchandise for the support of the government, is called the tariff; and the propriety of laying high duties or low ones, is one of



The safe Return.



those difficult questions which separate the two political parties into which the citizens of the United States are divided.

The present tariff of duties is quite low ; but the friends of low duties desire that all duties should be abolished, and all foreign merchandise admitted free. If this measure should be adopted, it will become necessary to support government by taxing all the houses and lands in the United States, as well as some other descriptions of property.

A STREET IN PHILADELPHIA.

THIS is a view of a part of Chestnut street, Philadelphia, near the corner of Seventh street. The principal building is the famous hotel, the Washington House, kept by that accomplished and kind-hearted landlord, Mr. Hartwell. The building back, on the left, of which you see but a small part, is Masonic Hall, a great place for exhibitions, fairs, and balls.

Philadelphia is one of the most beautiful cities in the whole Union. It is next to New York in population, commerce, and wealth. The houses are built of brick chiefly; and as the state of Pennsylvania abounds in fine marble, you see a prodigious display of this beautiful building material in the houses, stores, and public edifices. Some of the buildings have entire fronts of this mate-



A Street in Philadelphia.



rial ; and the custom-house, formerly the United States Bank, presents a whole exterior of the same.

The city was founded by the celebrated William Penn, in 1682. He took care to have it laid out in regular squares, with the streets crossing each other at right angles. Hence its uniform, regular appearance.

FRANKLIN IN HIS STUDY

THIS is one of the greatest men America has produced. We have represented him here, in advanced life, sitting in his study. He was the son of a soap boiler and tallow chandler, was born in 1706, at Boston. He was apprenticed, as a printer, to his brother, at Boston. It was while he was with his brother that he began to try his powers of literary composition. Street ballads, and articles in a newspaper were his first efforts. Dis satisfied with the manner in which he was treated by his relative, he, at the age of seventeen, privately quitted him, and came to Philadelphia, where he obtained employment. Deluded by a promise of patronage from the governor, Sir William Keith, he visited England to procure the necessary materials for establishing a printing-office in Phila-



Franklin in his Study.



delphia; but, on his arrival at London, he found that he had been deceived, and he was obliged to work as a journeyman for eighteen months.

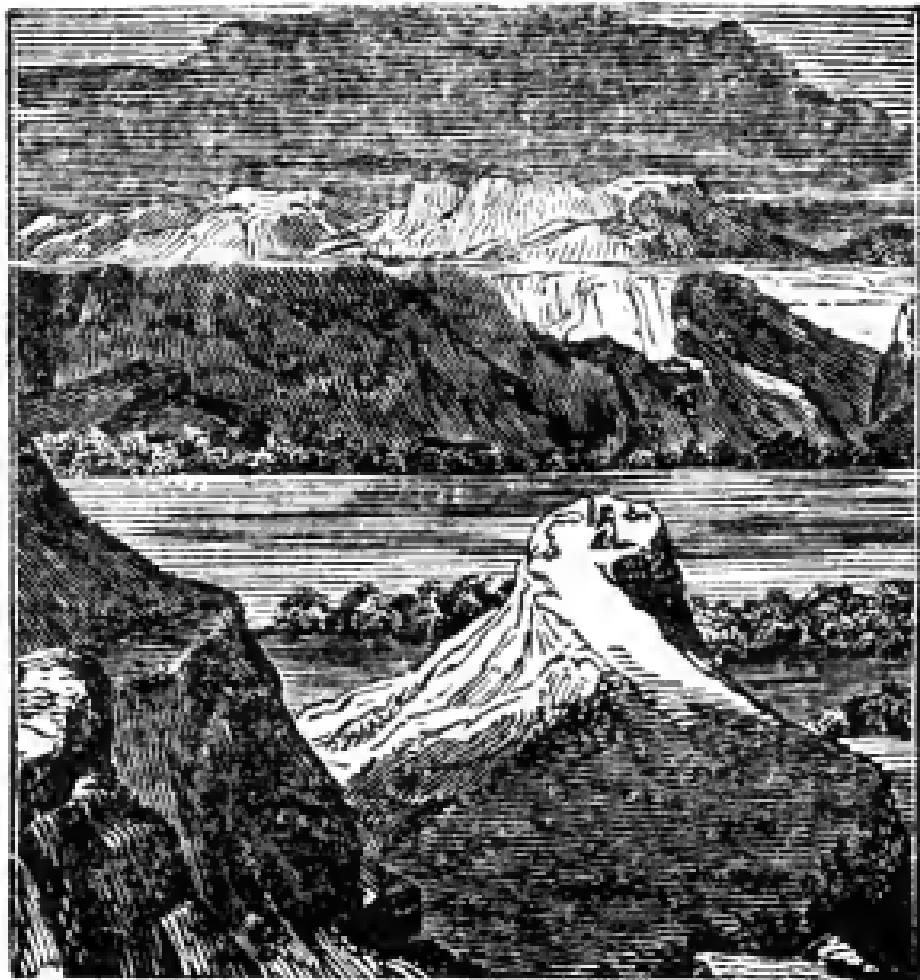
In 1726 he returned to Philadelphia; not long after which he entered into business as a printer and stationer, and, in 1728, established a newspaper. His prudence soon placed him among the most prosperous of the citizens, and the influence which prosperity naturally gave was enhanced by his activity and talent. Chiefly by his exertions a public library, a fire-preventing company, an insurance company, and a voluntary association for defence, were established at Philadelphia.

He afterwards discovered the properties of electricity, and invented lightning rods. He was sent as ambassador to France, and after rendering important services to his country, and signing treaties with several European powers, he returned to America in 1785, where he died in 1790.

A SCENE IN THE ROCKY MOUNTAINS.

FAR to the west, on the borders of the Pacific ocean, there is a grand tract of mountains called the Rocky Mountains. They extend from the 35th to the 79th degree of north latitude. Some of the peaks are sixteen thousand feet in height, and are covered with perpetual snow. Mount St. Elias is one of the highest summits. We have no very accurate information respecting the height of the passes of the Rocky Mountains, nor of the altitude of their base above the level of the ocean. East of these mountains there is a very extensive tract, dry, sandy, and almost a desert.

These mountains are, in certain parts, inhabited by Indians; who, like the other tribes in North America, subsist chiefly by hunting and fishing. The



A Rocky Mountain Scene.



produce of the chase is disposed of principally to the agents of the British Hudson's Bay Company, who are the great monopolists of the fur trade, in the northern regions of America.

A SAILOR ON SHORE

HERE is a sailor standing on the sea-shore, leaning against an anchor, looking at the ships and boats on the ocean, and quietly smoking his pipe. He is now in a state of tranquil enjoyment. Very different is this from some of the scenes which he has witnessed at sea.

The sailor's life, on the whole, is a hard one. Dr. Johnson, speaking with reference to the confinement and danger to which one is exposed at sea, says that going to sea, is being in jail, with an even chance of getting drowned.

The sailor at sea hardly ever enjoys a whole night's rest ; half the crew, in a common merchant vessel watches on deck, while the other half sleeps, and they relieve each other at intervals.

When a storm or squall of wind comes on, all hands are ordered on deck, and



A Sailor on Shore.

...
...

■

54

■

■

the greater part of them have to ascend the masts, and go out upon the long yards, in order to furl the sails, to prevent the upsetting of the vessel, or the sails being torn to pieces by the violence of the wind.

While they are thus exposed on the yards, often in utter darkness, and amidst rain or snow, the motion of the vessel is violent, and they have to hold on with all their strength to prevent falling overboard. Sometimes they do fall overboard and get drowned while engaged in this necessary part of their duty. Truly the sailor's life is a hard one at sea, and we should not grudge him the enjoyment of a quiet pipe on shore.

THE WATERMILL.

HERE is a pretty scene of rural life—the little country mill. It is situated on a small stream, and grinds the Indian corn, wheat, rye, and barley, which the neighbouring farmers bring to it for the purpose.

Do you know how they construct a watermill? I will tell you. In the first place they find a stream of water, and erect a milldam of wood and stone, stretching clear across the stream, and retaining a large body of the water, which is called the millpond. Below the dam, and contiguous to the mill, is built a sluice which is opened from the dam, allowing a strong stream of water to pass, which turns the water wheel. In this mill, you see the water is thrown upon the top of the wheel. This is called an overshot mill. Sometimes it passes



The Watermill.



under the wheel then it is an under-shot mill; but the overshot mill is best, because it adds the weight of the water to its motion, and exerts more force on the wheel.

To this wheel the machinery of the mill is attached, which moves the millstones. The millstones are large and circular. The nether millstone, that is, the lower one, is fixed, and the upper one turns round upon it, and the corn or grain is made to pass between them. The miller takes a small measure from each bag of corn, which is called *toll*; and this is his pay for the grinding of the corn or grain into meal or flour.

HE FARMER'S BOY.

HERE is a farmer's boy lying at his ease under the cool shade of a tree, attended by his dog. Near by is a keg containing milk or coffee, for the refreshment of the workmen on the farm. His present duty appears to be that of a watch or sentinel. Perhaps he is guarding some cornfield from the depredations of the crows. If so, when they come, he will throw stones at them and drive them off. Perhaps he is merely taking care of the workmen's dinner, or perhaps he has been hard at work a good part of the day, and is now taking a little repose.

The farmer's boy has a great variety of duties to perform. In the spring he assists in planting corn, potatoes, pumpkins, and beans, by dropping the seed in the *hills*, as they call the little mound



The Farmer's Boy.



of earth where it is deposited. He drives the cows to pasture every morning, and brings them home at dusk.

In the summer he rakes and pitches the hay ; and helps to put it in the cart, when it is *made* or dried. He is very useful in the haymaking season.

In the autumn he assists in gathering the corn and apples, and stowing them in the granary. At all times he is called upon to drive the team of oxen or horses. On the whole, he is a very industrious person during the greater part of the year ; and he nobly earns the privilege of going to the district school three months in the cold season.

THE SAILOR BOY.

This is a very different scene from the last. Here is a little sailor boy, standing in the chains of the ship, that is, in the part where the shrouds or rope ladders are fastened to the hull, and throwing the lead.

Now, I dare say you want to know what is meant by throwing the lead. It is the way the sailors have of finding the depth of the water, when they are entering a harbour, sailing up a river, or passing over a shoal or sandbank. A hand is stationed in the chains of the ship, like the boy you see in the picture, with a strong line, on which the fathoms are marked with knots of strings of different colours; at the end of the line is a heavy leaden weight, the bottom of which is smeared with tallow, so as to bring up mud or sand, when it touches the bot-



The Sailor Boy.



tom, and thus show what kind of bottom there is.

As the boy heaves the lead and draws it up, he counts off the fathoms by the knots on the line, and calls out the number of fathoms' depth of water, which the ship is in.

By keeping the leadsmen in the chains, in this way, constantly throwing the lead, the captain is apprised when there is any danger of the ship's grounding.

WRITING COMPOSITION.

HERE is a schoolboy writing his composition. He is a member of the famous Central High School of Philadelphia; and he is very anxious to maintain his standing in his class. He therefore works late and early, learning his lessons, *doing* his sums, and writing his exercises, knowing the value of learning, and determined to use his utmost efforts to become an accomplished man.

His opportunities for acquiring knowledge in the High School are very great. This elegant institution has a large number of learned professors in the several departments of literature; a fine apparatus for experiments and demonstrations in chemistry, natural philosophy, and natural history; and an observatory provided with an extensive and costly set of astronomical instruments. The number of



Writing Composition.



students is near five hundred ; and they are all instructed at the public expense.

Such an institution may well be considered one of the noblest ornaments of the city. It enables the latent talent in the poor man's son to be developed and given to the public service ; and it is filling the several trades and mercantile departments of business with well-educated young men.

THE BOATSWAIN.

HERE you see an elegant naval figure. It is the boatswain of a man-of-war, standing on the gun-deck of the ship, with his hand resting on a cannon. The ribbon on his neck has attached to it a whistle, with which he calls the men to their duty.

Our navy is justly considered the most important means of national defence. We are a commercial, as well as an agricultural and manufacturing nation ; and our merchant ships are scattered all over the face of the globe. Hence it becomes necessary for us to maintain a considerable naval force to protect our commerce, not only on our own coasts, but in foreign ports and seas.

In the little book intended as one of the companions of this, entitled Naval Heroes of America, the readers will find



The Boatswain.



an account of the great naval battles which have been fought for the defence of free trade and sailor's rights, in our wars with those formidable naval powers, Great Britain and France.

Should it become necessary again to contend with such fearful odds, the American navy will be found ready.

A SOUTHERN SCENE.

THIS is a scene in the far south. A cottage thatched with palm leaves, and shaded by the palmetto, must be sought in Cuba, or Mexico, or South America. There a very slight fabric is preferred to a more solid one. I have seen many such cottages as this in Cuba. The sides are built of thin boards, the rafters light timber, and the roof thatched with those great palm branches, which, when waving at the top of the tree, form the most striking ornament of tropical scenery. The furniture of these cottages is very scanty. A table or two, half a dozen wooden chairs, with seats made of untanned bullock's hide; and a few cross-legged beadsteads, with canvass stretched across; and the house is furnished.

In these slight habitations live the



A Southern Scene.



poorer classes of people, such as herdsmen and small farmers, and all the slaves.

Some of the cottages or huts are built of wicker-work, which the negroes are very skilful in making ; and for which abundant materials are found in the pliant shrubbery of the tropical forests. Such habitations are suited to a climate where there is no winter—no freezing weather.

THE ARCTIC REGIONS.

HERE is a winter scene in those terribly cold and desolate regions of America, which are within the arctic circle, and near the north pole. There winter reigns triumphant. The inhabitants are few and poor. They navigate the frozen ocean with their frail canoes, which are safer than ships among the islands of ice.

The fields of ice are frequently of immense extent. Cook found a chain of them which joined Eastern Asia to North America. The appearance of these continents and islands of ice surpasses all that the imagination can conceive. Here we fancy that we behold mountains of pure crystal, and valleys sown with diamonds. There, grayish towers with their resplendent points seem to rise above a rampart crowned with ice. The magnifying medium of a



An Arctic Scene.



hazy atmosphere renders the spectacle still more gigantic. He must have a heart of iron who dare penetrate into these inhospitable seas; for if the navigator has not to fear tempests, which are extremely rare in these latitudes, nor waterspouts and hurricanes, which are there unknown, he will be assailed by other dangers much more capable of appalling the most intrepid minds. Sometimes huge bodies of ice, impelled along by the winds and the currents of the sea, dash against the frail vessel; and there is no rock so dangerous or so difficult to avoid. Sometimes these floating mountains treacherously surround the navigator, and block up every outlet; his ship is arrested in her course, and becomes immovable. In vain does the feeble axe endeavour to break these enormous masses; in vain do the sails invite the winds; the ship, as it were, soldered into the ice, and the mariner remains fixed in the solitude of death.

SKATING.

HERE is another winter scene. A party of men and boys skating. This amusement, which we have already remarked, is extremely popular in the United States, is not less so in other countries. In England, skating is enjoyed by all the men and boys who can afford time, and who love the sport; but Holland is the great country for skating. There the women skate. The country being intersected in every direction by ditches, canals, and rivers, which are frozen over in the winter, skating is the favourite mode of passing from town to town. The women and men skate with burdens on their heads, carrying their produce to market in this way.

Holland is a low, flat country, in which there are immense tracts of land protected from inundation by embankments



Skating.



thrown up to keep the water from overflowing. This particular formation of the country has, on more than one occasion, served as the means of protecting it against its invaders. When it was a province, in rebellion against Philip II. of Spain, a whole province was laid under water, by cutting through the embankments. It is pleasing to know that this brave people effected their national independence, and threw off the galling yoke of the Spanish kings.

THE BACKWOODS BOY.

HERE is a fine little fellow, the son of one of the hardy settlers of the west. He is returning home after a hard day's work, carrying a bundle of sticks for firewood on his shoulder, and followed by his faithful dog.

His father is one of a large class of our fellow-citizens, who emigrate to the western country, buy a section of wild, unclaimed land in the deep forest, build a log hut, and slowly and surely convert the wilderness into a smiling, highly cultivated farm. There are thousands of such men scattered over all the wild regions of the west. They buy their land from the government of the United States, at the low price of one dollar and twenty-five cents an acre; and by their persevering industry and economy, they soon increase its value a



The Backwoodsman Boy.



hundred fold. Their industry and enterprise has worked that magic change in the west, which has excited the astonishment of the whole world. No country ever grew so rapidly in population and wealth. The west is destined at no distant day to be the centre of political power, and to rule the destinies of the whole Union.

THE YOUNG GARDENER.

This little gentleman presents quite a contrast to the last. He is making a garden, labouring not for support, like the backwoodsman's son, but for amusement. He will soon throw up his little bed of soft mould, in the part of his father's garden assigned for his use; then he will carefully manure it with the richest materials which the gardener will bring for him in his wheelbarrow, then he will sow it with flower seeds, marigolds, pinks, and pansies, china asters, and hollyhocks.

He will carefully watch the springing up and growth of his pretty flowers, and when they are in full bloom, he will make up bouquets, for his lady-mother, and his sisters. Very different husbandry is this from that of the little backwoodsman, who toils in the forest all day with



The Young Gardener.

his father, and wields the axe, and if need be, aims the rifle at the invading Indian. Such are the contrasts which are presented in different parts of our widely extended country.

THE POOR WOMAN.

HERE is another contrast. This is a winter scene. It represents a poor woman of a country village who is returning home, wading through the snow, after a hard day's work. She carries some provisions, the proceeds of her day's labour, and is attended by her little boy, her only child, who accompanied her because he was too small to be left at home. They are quite poor. Even the dog which follows them looks lean and pinched, as though he felt the sorrows of indigence.

The condition of the poor in the winter season is greatly to be pitied. Not only is it more expensive to obtain provisions, clothes, and fuel, at that season, but it is far more difficult to obtain profitable employment than in the summer. Hence it becomes the duty of all who



The Poor Woman.



possess affluence, or even a competent share of the good things of this life, to minister to the wants of the needy and destitute. Families are often reduced from prosperity to utter indigence, by pure misfortune, not accompanied by vice of any kind. We often read in the newspapers of a labouring man killed by falling from the roof of a house, or being crushed by a railroad car. Almost every such accident cuts off the support of a helpless family. Providence assigns to the rich the care of those who are thus reduced to poverty.

THE TURNSTILE.

HERE is a scene of juvenile sport. Two boys are riding on a turnstile, while a third is exerting all his strength in turning it round. This is a very simple amusement, but it seems to answer the purpose of the boys, one of whom is clapping his hands with glee. It is a pretty village scene, such as one often sees in the country.

Do any of my little readers wish to know what a turnstile is? I will tell them. It is a contrivance for letting men and boys pass into a field, while cattle are kept out. It consists of an upright post, on the top of which two strong bars, crossing each other at right angles, are placed, which turn upon an iron pivot. A ride upon such a contrivance is certainly not quite so great a luxury as a ride in a fine coach; but it



The Turnstile.



makes these little country boys quite happy. All our ideas of happiness are comparative.

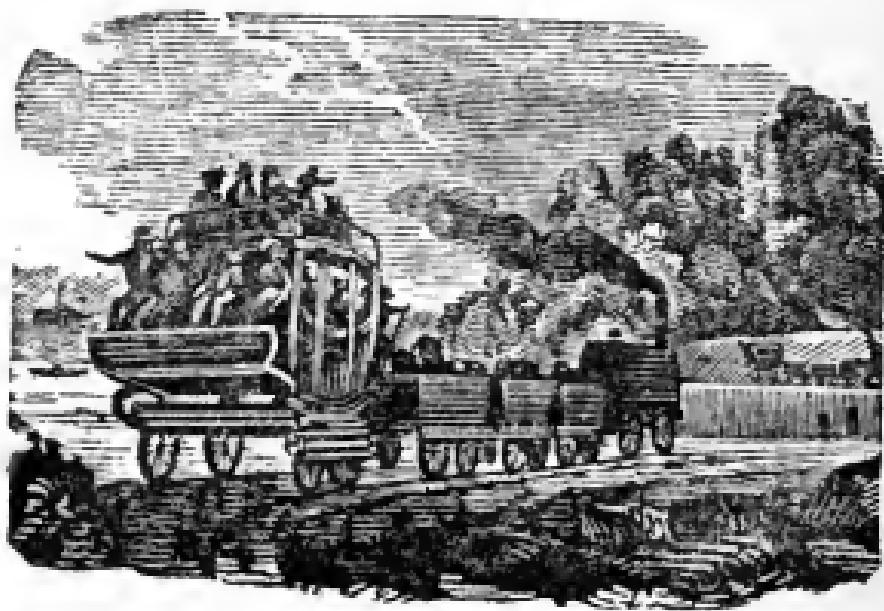
A story is told of an ignorant English country bumpkin, who wished he had as much money as the king. Some one asked him how he would then spend his time. "Oh," says he, "I would ride upon a gate all day."

THE RAILROAD.

HERE is a locomotive dragging its train of cars over the railroad. This is quite a characteristic scene for our country. It is one which the traveller falls in with wherever he goes. In the east, in the west, in the north, and in the south, railroads now form the principal means by which long journeys are accomplished.

The first railroad in the United States was constructed at Quincy, in Massachusetts, for the purpose of conveying granite from a quarry to the place of embarkation. Its great utility speedily led to the construction of others; and it was not many years before the whole country was intersected with these useful contrivances for rapid travelling.

Formerly it used to take a long summer day to go in mail-coaches from



The Railroad.



Boston to Providence, a distance of about forty miles. Now the same distance is travelled in two hours. Many years ago, one spent two or three weeks in coming from Boston to Philadelphia. Now one dines in Boston on Monday, and in Philadelphia on Tuesday. Such are the benefits of railroads.

CELEBRATING THE FOURTH OF JULY.

HERE are a group of American boys celebrating the anniversary of American independence. You know what that means. Every American child that knows any thing of history, knows that on the fourth of July, 1776, the Continental Congress assembled in Independence Hall, in the city of Philadelphia, and declared these United States to be free and independent ; thus, for ever separating from Great Britain the old thirteen colonies, which had before owned allegiance to the British crown.

The author of the Declaration of Independence was Thomas Jefferson, who afterwards became president of the United States.

The boys who are here celebrating the nation's birthday, have provided



Celebrating the Fourth of July.



themselves with a little cannon, as burning gunpowder is considered a very essential part of the ceremonies, and they are just going to fire it off. The good dame at the door is in great trouble. She is afraid the boys will do some mischief. But they pay no attention to her. They will have their sport.

We should remember in celebrating this day, that we owe a duty to our country, in paying obedience to its laws, learning its history, and studying its institutions, as well as in voting for good men to hold its public offices.

THE END

16







